

Appl. No. : 10/522,078  
Filed : January 19, 2005

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A stripping device (3) for use with a cutting tool (1) with a cutting element, ~~in particular a punch (2)~~, for machining a workpiece, ~~in particular a curved metal sheet (6)~~, at least one fastening piece (4, 28, 40) for fastening it to the cutting tool, a spring-elastic element (21) arranged outside the workpiece contact region, a stripping element (15, 34) which comes into contact with the workpiece and surrounds the cutting element-(2), and at least one guide element (11, 26, 33) guiding the stripping element (15, 34) ~~being~~ is provided, wherein characterized in that a device configured for securing against rotation to essentially prevent the stripping element (15) from rotating is provided, the device for securing against rotation having a pairing, formed asymmetrically at least in one direction, of stripping element and a hole or an opening in the guide element in which to fit the stripping element so as to ensure that the stripping element will be installed with a unique orientation.

2. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the device for securing against rotation comprises a stripping element with an irregular cross-sectional shape.

3. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the device for securing against rotation comprises an elongated hole (14) or polygonal hole in the guide element.

4. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that wherein an elongated hole having three straight sides (141, 142, 143, 311, 312, 313) and one curved side (144, 314) and a correspondingly designed stripping element (15) are provided.

5. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that wherein at least one guide sleeve (11, 26) is arranged as a guide element outside the stripping element-(15), at least partially surrounding the latter in a

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guiding manner, and/or at least one guide bushing (33) is arranged as a guide element within the stripping element (34), guiding the latter.

6. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that wherein instead of the device for securing against rotation in the form of a pairing, formed asymmetrically in at least one direction, of stripping element and hole or opening in the guide element, two fitting shoulder screws (36) are provided for fastening to the cutting tool-(1), and a region of the stripping element that surrounds the fitting shoulder screws is provided for engaging round a fastening plate (5) for the punch (2) cutting element.

7. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 one of the preceding claims, characterized in that wherein at least one guide surface (19) is provided between stripping element (15) and guide element (11, 26), the length of which surface can be selected as a function of the forces acting on the stripping device, in particular shearing and lateral forces, in order to ensure tilt-free guidance.

8. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that wherein the stripping element (15) has an essentially straight section (17) and a protruding section (18), guide surfaces being provided on the straight and the protruding sections (17, 18) of the stripping element (15).

9. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 one of the preceding claims, characterized in that wherein the stripping element (15, 34) has at least one guide surface on its inside facing a fitted cutting element-(2), in particular the stem thereof, and/or the stripping element (15, 34) and the spring-elastic element (21) are oriented, surrounding the cutting element-(2), in such a manner that they can be loaded in a manner essentially free from torque.

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10. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that wherein~~ a lubricant (16), in particular a solid lubricant, is provided at least in a subregion of the straight section (17).

11. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that wherein~~ the guide element (26) is formed integrally with the fastening piece (28) or guide element (11) and fastening piece (4) are formed as elements which can be joined together.

12. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that wherein~~ the spring-elastic element (21) is arranged between stripping element (15) or guide element (33) and cutting tool (4) and/or within the guide element (11, 26).

13. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that wherein~~ at least one protruding region (50) and/or protruding section (51), in particular a claw- or clamp-shaped section, is or are provided on the circumference of the fastening piece (4) for engaging around a fastening device (5) of the cutting tool (4), in particular standardized fastening plate.

14. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that wherein~~ the stripping element (15, 34) can be provided or is provided with a shape corresponding to the workpiece and consists, in particular, of bronze or another material which can be machined and matched to the shape of the workpiece surface.

15. (Currently Amended) The stripping device (3) as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that wherein~~ the spring-elastic element (21) is a rubber spring or consists of another spring-elastic, restoring or flexible material.